

REMARKS

Upon review of the Office Action and the cited references, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-24 and expressly reserve the right to file a continuation application with respect to those claims. Applicants have amended claim 25 and added new claim 37 and respectfully request reconsideration of these claims in view of the following.

Claim 25 has been rejected as being anticipated by the patent to Moddel et al., U.S. Patent 5,943,104. Claim 25 and its dependent claims have also been rejected as being obvious in view of the patents to Hama, U.S. Patent No. 5,532,705 and Palffy-Muhoray, U.S. Patent No. 6,239,778. These claims have also been rejected as being obvious in view of the patent to Hama; the patent to Ishii, U.S. Patent No. 5,148,297; and the patent to Witt, U.S. Patent No. 4,106,217.

Claim 25 has been amended to set forth that the substrate electrodes are patterned to generate an indicia when the electric field is applied to the electrodes and further that a patterned top layer is provided on an outwardly facing surface of one of the substrates. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 6, lines 9-10 which refer to "a top layer 58 on the other substrates' outwardly facing surface" and on line 11 which states that "the layer 58 may be patterned as desired." It is also noted that a new claim 37 has been added directed to the top layer comprising cut crystal. This is based on the disclosure at lines 9-10 of page 6 where the top layer 58 is specified as being a cut crystal.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references made of record disclose the features of generating an indicia when an electric field is applied to the electrodes and utilizing a patterned top layer provided on an outwardly facing surface of one of the substrates. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion that a patterned top layer may be utilized to improve the appearance of the accessory. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 is allowable and that all claims depending therefrom are likewise allowable.

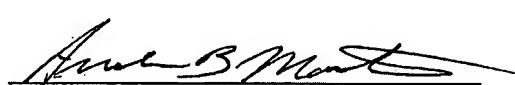
In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments presented herein, the Applicants believe that they have properly set forth the invention and accordingly, respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections provided in the last Office Action. A formal Notice of Allowance of claims 25-37 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner

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care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

In the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987. If a withdrawal is required from Deposit Account No. 18-0987, the undersigned Attorney respectfully requests that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks cite Attorney Docket Number **AMN.P0005** for billing purposes.

Respectfully submitted,


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